



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Winsted, CT*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

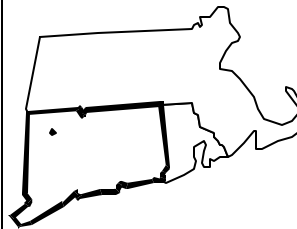
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Winsted for a Brownfields Pilot. Winsted, located in the northwest corner of Connecticut, is a predominantly blue-collar town of approximately 11,500. Winsted's abundant supplies of water and labor made it an important manufacturing center, populated with mills producing everything from pins to clocks, and textiles to small appliances. The majority of these facilities were located on the Mad River, and over time, a variety of contaminants found their way into the soil and groundwater.

Many of these old factories are now idle and empty. In addition to the health and safety risks posed by the boarded-up buildings, the closing of the mills has had a negative effect on the local economy. Winsted's unemployment rate is more than 6 percent. While the state's labor force grew by 4.3 percent from 1992–1997, the city's actually shrunk by 1.4 percent. These factors, combined with the city's per capita income of \$20,468, led the state to classify Winsted as a distressed community.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Winsted, Connecticut

Date of Announcement:  
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets  
16 former manufacturing  
sites located on the Mad  
River in northwestern  
Connecticut.

#### Contacts:

City of Winsted  
(860) 379-8771

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 573-9681

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

The City of Winsted has recently completed its Main Street Enhancement Plan, which provides a blueprint for the redevelopment of the downtown commercial and residential areas. The plan includes a five-mile-long recreation trail, improved lighting, landscaping, expanded sidewalks, and better signage. The Pilot's objective is to facilitate the implementation of this plan by performing assessments at sites along the river, where the recreation trail will be built. By removing any environmental uncertainty attached to the 16 targeted sites, the Pilot will clear the way for subsequent cleanup and redevelopment.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing Phase I assessments at the 16 targeted sites;
- Performing Phase II assessments at four to five of the 16 targeted sites, and a Phase III assessment at one of the sites; and
- Involving the community and sharing information on the Pilot in a variety of ways, including public meetings, fact sheets, and a database.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.